To raiſe a preſent ſumme ; therefore goe forth,
Trie what my credit can in *Venice* doe,
That ſhall be rackt even to the uttermoſt,
To furniſh thee to *Belmount* to faire *Portia*.
Goe preſently enquire, and ſo will I,
Where money is, and I no queſtion make
To have it of my truſt, or for my ſake. *Exeunt.*

Enter *Portia* with her wating-woman *Nerriſſa*.

Por. By my troth *Nerriſſa*, my little body is aweary of this great world.

Ner. You would be, ſweet Madam, if your miſeries were in the ſame aboundance as your good fortunes are : and yet for ought I ſee, they are as ſick that ſurfeit with too much, as they that ſtarve with nothing ; it is no meane happines therefore to be ſeated in the meane, ſuperfluitie comes ſooner by white haires, but competencie lives longer.

Por. Good ſentences, and well pronounc'd.

Ner. They would be better if well follow'd.

Por. If to do were as eaſie as to know what were good to do, Chappels had beene Churches, and poore mens cottages Princes Pallaces, it is a good divine that followes his owne inſtructions, I can eaſier teach twenty vvhat were good to be done, then to be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching : the braine may deviſe lawes for the blood, but a hote temper leapes ore a cold decree, ſuch a hare is madnes the youth, to skip ore the meſhes of good counſell the cripple ; but this reaſoning is not in the faſhion to chooſe me a husband, ô mee the word chooſe, I may neither chooſe who I would, nor refuſe who I diſlike, ſo is the wil of a lyving daughter curbd by the will of a dead father : is it not hurde *Nerriſſa*, that I cannot chooſe one, nor refuſe none.

Ner. Your Father was ever vertuous, and holy men at their death have good inſpirations, therefore the lottry that he hath deviſed in theſe three cheſts of gold, ſilver, and leade, vvhereof who chooſes his meaning chooſes you, will no doubt never be chooſen by any rightly, but one who you ſhall rightly love : But vvhat warmth is there in your affection towards any of theſe Princely ſuters that are already come ?

Por.

Por. I pray thee over-name the
will deſcribe them, and according
my affection.

Ner. Firſt there is the *Neopoli*

Por. I, that's a colt indeed, fo
his horſe, and he makes it a great ap
parts, that he can ſhooe him himſel
die his mother plaid falſe with a S

Ner. Then is there the Countie

Por. He doth nothing but frown
will not have me, chooſe; he heare
feare hee will prove the weeping I
old, being ſo full of unmannerly ſa
ther be married to a Deathſ-head w
to either of theſe : God defend me

Ner. How ſay you by the Frenc

Por. God made him, and there
truth I know it is a ſin to be a moc
horſe better than the *Neopolitans*, a
than the Count *Palentine*, he is eve
ſing, he ſtraight fals a capering, he
dow. If I ſhould marry him, I ſh
if he would deſpiſe me, I would
to madneſſe, I ſhall never requite

Ner. What ſay you then to *F*
of *England* ?

Por. You know I ſay nothing
me, nor I him: he hath neither Lati
will come into the Court, and ſw
worth in the Engliſh : he is a pro
can converſe with a dumbe ſhow
he bought his doublet in *Italy*, his
net in *Germanie*, and his behaviour

Ner. What thinke you of the S

Por. That he hath a neighbour
rowed a box of the eare of the En
pay him againe when he was able
came his Suretie, and ſeal'd under

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